



June 2009

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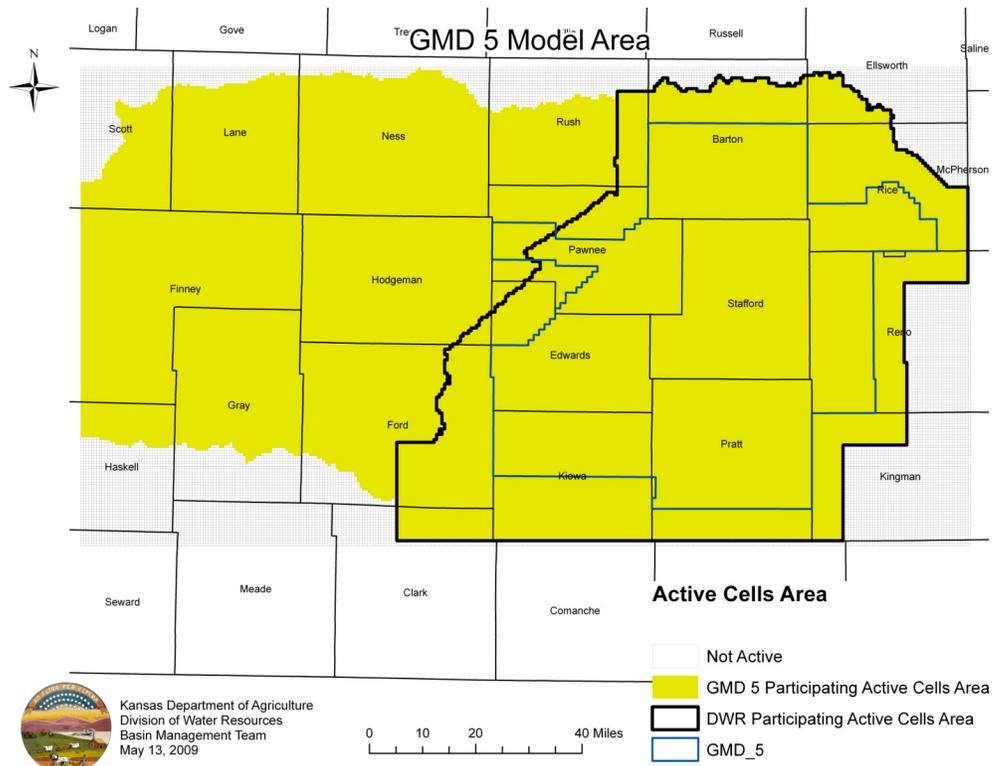
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GMD 5 Districtwide Model

Groundwater Management District No. 5 and the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Division of Water Resources have signed a memorandum agreeing to work together to develop a groundwater model of the GMD 5 district. The goal is to develop a model that can be used by both GMD 5 and DWR to help explain historical groundwater conditions and assess future management options. GMD 5 has contracted Balleau Groundwater, Inc. of Albuquerque as lead modeler. DWR has contracted S.S. Papadopulos and Associates to act as peer reviewer.

Currently the model is in the calibration phase, and it is expected to be complete by December 2009. A final model report will be written and available to the public. For general information about a groundwater model, visit www.ksda.gov/subbasin/content/317.

Independently of DWR, GMD 5 will extend the groundwater model west into Upper Arkansas and Pawnee-Buckner River valleys.



Rattlesnake Creek Partnership Update

In 1994, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Groundwater Management District No. 5, Water Protection Association of Central Kansas (Water PACK) and the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources signed an agreement to engage the community to approach water conservation and to address water-related concerns in the Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin. As a result, management strategies were developed and then implemented in 2000. The management program was to be reviewed every four years to evaluate its goals and progress.

As of this newsletter's publication, the partnership continues to review the original Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin Management Program in conjunction with the second four-year review scheduled in August 2008. The partners are working hard to develop a 2008 review document that properly represents the progress and future direction of all the partners. Recent feedback received by DWR from GMD 5 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a draft version of a March 10, 2009, document revealed common concerns related to the need for further discussion on the future management of Rattlesnake Creek water resources.

The most recent draft of this report is available at www.ksda.gov/subbasin/content/201/cid/749.

Chief Engineer to Attend June 11 GMD 5 Meeting

Chief Engineer David Barfield will attend the monthly board meeting of Groundwater Management District No. 5. The meeting is scheduled Thursday, June 11, at the GMD 5 office at 125 South Main in Stafford. The chief engineer was asked to attend to answer questions and discuss issues related to the Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin. This meeting is open to the public. The time has not yet been determined. Please call (620) 234-5352 or (620) 234-5311 to ask about the meeting time or visit our website at www.ksda.gov/subbasin/events/

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program Proposals

The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) provides agricultural producers financial and technical assistance to help implement this voluntary conservation program aimed at conserving groundwater and surface water and improving water quality. For fiscal year 2009, up to \$58.4 million in AWEP financial assistance is expected to be available for the National Resources Conservation Service to enter into contracts with producers.

In Kansas, there were five proposals written with the general goal to secure AWEP funding for various surface water or groundwater reductions within the Ogallala-High Plains aquifer. The proposals varied some in purpose, scope and implementation of this goal and in target areas. The proposals were from the following entities:

- 1) Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources, State Conservation Commission and Kansas Water Office.
- 2) Southwest Groundwater Management District 3 (GMD 3)
- 3) Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District
- 4) Big Bend Groundwater Management District 5 (GMD 5)
- 5) Northwest Groundwater Management District 4 (GMD 4)

The first proposal by DWR, State Conservation Commission and Kansas Water Office is for \$4.5 million and has three target areas in Kansas — the Prairie Dog Creek subbasin, Beaver Creek subbasin and Pawnee-Buckner alluvial valley in Hodgeman and Ness counties and the Ogallala subunit in Hodgeman County.

(Continued on page 3)

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program Proposals *(continued from page 2)*

Within these areas, the goal is to reduce groundwater and surface water withdrawals and consumptive, irrigational use in water-short areas of both the Ogallala-High Plains aquifer and the interconnected alluvial aquifers and streams, while encouraging agricultural use of enrolled acres.

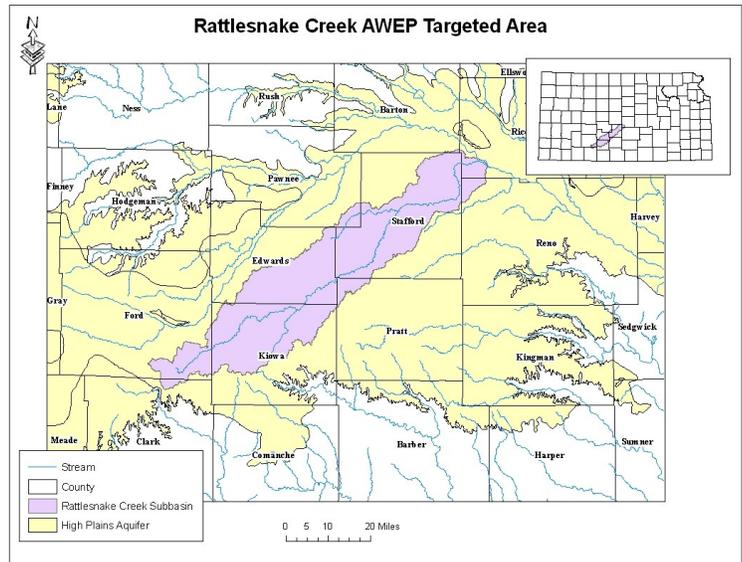
Similarly, GMD 3's proposal has the same goal of water use reduction in the Ogallala-High Plains aquifer, but is a request for \$8 million and has the target area of Gray County, a rapidly depleting area of the Ogallala-High Plains aquifer.

Varying somewhat is the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District's proposal. This project is aimed at conserving water by improving the efficiency of existing irrigation systems. To achieve this goal, the proposal asks for \$600,000 to bury laterals in Jewell and Republic counties to save an estimated 30 percent of the transit losses from seepage and evaporation. In addition, other benefits cited would be soil conservation and the elimination of waste originating from the ends of fields.

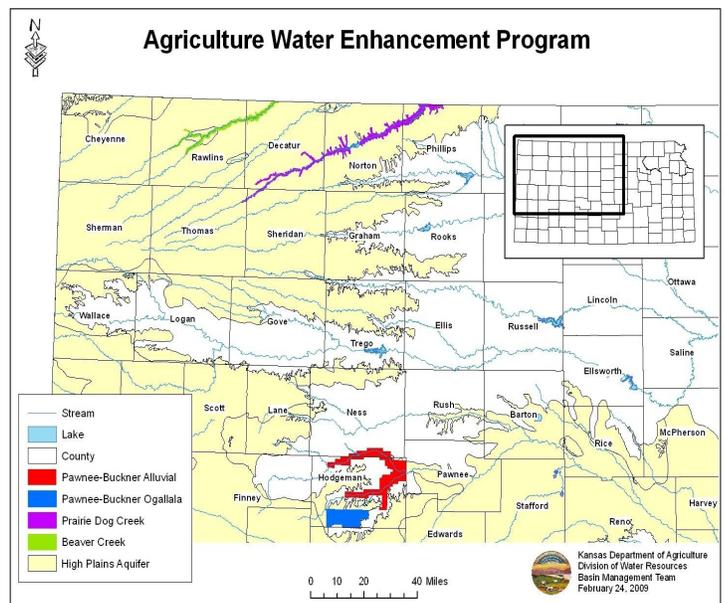
Big Bend GMD 5 proposes retiring acres irrigated by the end guns of center pivot systems, which are the least efficient portion of the irrigation system. The targeted areas are within GMD 5 and include the Rattlesnake Creek basin. The request is for \$2 million a year for four years.

Finally, Northwest GMD 4 proposes to permanently retire existing water rights within the high-priority area of Sherman County to achieve locally set goals and objectives. The permanent retirement of up to 2,000 acre-feet of historically consumed irrigational water use is the goal with a payment of \$2,000 per acre-foot. The total requested amount for achieving the goals is \$4 million.

For more information on AWEP, visit the USDA-NRCS website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/



Rattlesnake Creek AWEP targeted area



Other DWR, SCC, KWO AWEP targeted areas

To sign up for other Basin Team newsletters, please visit www.ksda.gov/subbasin/mailling_list/.

KDA-DWR Stafford Begins Annual Focus on Field Inspections

The Division of Water Resources Stafford field office has begun its annual push of water appropriation field inspections. Before a water appropriation can become a water right, an on-site field inspection must be conducted to measure the rate of water flow from the point of diversion. Inspections of irrigation, thermal exchange and stock watering permits will be conducted first. Postcards sent to 173 individuals asked them to contact the Stafford field office to set up a time for the inspection. Postcards for other uses (municipal, recreational and industrial) will be sent in late August. This year, inspections are targeted for appropriations with a perfection period ending on or before December 31, 2011.

The Stafford field office will have four employees working on the field inspections throughout the summer. Of the 173 postcards, two were sent to individuals in the Rattlesnake Creek. They were small-use water permit users of 15 acre-feet or less.



Subbasin Water Resource Management Program Mission Statement

To analyze aquifers and stream systems in targeted areas and work with stakeholders to develop and assess strategies to protect water rights and improve hydrologic sustainability. The program uses a five-phase process that includes:

- *Initiating the project*
- *Analyzing and educating*
- *Evaluating alternatives*
- *Making recommendations*
- *Implementation*

Visit www.ksda.gov/subbasin/ to learn more.

Visit www.ksda.gov

"So-this-is-a-River"

"THE River," corrected the Rat.

"And you really live by the river? What a jolly life!"

"By it and with it and on it and in it," said the Rat. "It's brother and sister to me, and aunts, and company, and food and drink, and (naturally) washing. It's my world, and I don't want any other. What it hasn't got is not worth having, and what it doesn't know is not worth knowing. Lord! the times we've had together..."

- **Kenneth Grahme - From *The Wind in the Willows***